

Reply to Office Action of September 30, 2004  
Amendment Dated: October 5, 2004

Appl. No.: 10/617,039  
Attorney Docket No.: CSCO-032/7715

### REMARKS

Claims 1-22 were presented for consideration in the application as originally filed, and the application was indicated to be in condition for allowance except for formal matters. Applicants first thank the Examiner for noting that the application is in condition for allowance. The specification and claims 1, 5, 9, 13, and 17 are sought to be amended as suggested by the Examiner. The amendments are believed not to introduce new subject matter, and their entry is respectfully requested. Claims 1-22 are thus presented for reconsideration, further in view of the following remarks.

#### *Specification*

10 In paragraph 2 of the Outstanding Office Action, the Abstract has been objected to, pointing out that it is unclear as to what EXP means. The abstract is sought to be amended to note that EXP corresponds to the 3-bit experimental field specified by MPLS protocol. Entry of the amendment and withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

15 In paragraph 3 of the Outstanding Office Action, amendments to paragraphs starting at lines 2 and 12 of page 11 were suggested. In particular, it was suggested that "325-335" should be replaced by "325, 330, and 335" and "310-315" should be replaced by "310 and 315" on lines 2 and 4 respectively of page 11. Similarly, it was suggested that "365-380" should be replaced by "365, 370 375 [sic], and 380" on line 15 of page 11.  
20 Both the paragraphs are sought to be amended accordingly. Entry of the amendments and withdrawal of the objections is respectfully requested.

#### *Claim Objections*

In paragraph 4 of the Outstanding Office Action, claims 1, 5, 9, 13, and 17 were objected because it was not stated in the claims that EXP is the experimental bit field in the MPLS protocol. Accordingly, each of claims 1, 5, 9, 13, and 17 is sought to be amended to recite that EXP corresponds to the experimental bit field in MPLS protocol.

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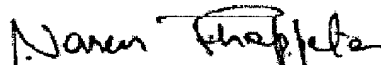
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Withdrawal of the objections is respectfully requested.

*Conclusion*

Thus, all the objections are believed to be overcome, and that the application is in  
condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned  
5 representative if it is believed that an interview might be useful for any reason.

Respectfully submitted,



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